

WHAT IS THE LINK Mission?

The LINK or "Longmeadow Information Network for Kids" mission is to work toward improving and strengthening communication about school issues among the Town of Longmeadow elected and appointed representatives, School Committee, the PTO/PAC leadership and the entire Longmeadow community.

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January/February 2006

*This issue covers School Committee Meetings:
January 9, January 23, February 13,
February 27*

THE LINK LETTER

The Longmeadow Information Network for Kids

HIGHLIGHTS

FY07 Budget

The School Committee approved on the recommendation of the Finance sub-committee a FY 2007 level service budget. Dr. Anders En presented the budget to the Town Manager on January 19, 2006. There are no salary increase dollars reflected in the FY'07 budget at this time due to ongoing contract negotiations.

The budget was developed based upon a list of priorities and the newly adopted Strategic Plan. More information regarding the FY '07 budget can be found on the Longmeadow Public School's website at www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us/dist/

Annual Town Meeting, Town Vote and Voter Registration

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the LHS gymnasium. Voting for the Town's 2007 budget will take place at that meeting. Voter registration for the Town Meeting will take place from 8:15 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5 in the Town Clerk's Office. Everyone, including high school students who are 18 years old and wish to participate in the voting process, is encouraged to register if you have not already done so. On Wednesday, May 15, there will be another opportunity to register to vote before the Town Elections on June 6, 2006. Once again, the hours will be from 8:15 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office.

LHS Facility Project

Tours of Longmeadow high School were given on Saturday, February 11, 2006. In addition, there were Public Forum meetings held on January 23 and February 13 prior to the scheduled School Committee meetings to get community input regarding this project. A presentation was given regarding potential renovation or "build new" options. Ample opportunities were given to ask questions and provide public comments.

LHS students and members of the Environmental Club at the high school gave a Power Point presentation on the benefits of "green schools". A green building is a building that has been constructed or renovated to incorporate design techniques, technologies, and materials that lessen its dependence on fossil fuels and minimize its overall negative environmental impact. More information regarding green school buildings can be found on the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative website (www.mtpc.org) as well as the Massachusetts Department of Education website (www.doe.mass.edu).

High School Generator

The School Committee voted to support an engineering study of LHS, to be funded by BayPath College, for installation of a generator, which would allow the building to be utilized as an emergency shelter. Consideration for proposing the high school as a site included its location (close to center of town, away from Rt. 91 and away from railroad tracks), parking availability, and presence of bathroom, shower and cafeteria facilities.

Summer School Enrichment Program

The Summer Enrichment Program catalogue with revised course prices was approved by the School Committee for printing and distribution. Prices for 2006 summer courses will be \$90 for a one-hour course (compared to \$76 for the prior year), \$150 for a two-hour enrichment course (compared to \$136 in 2005), and \$240 for a two-hour academic course (up from \$210 in 2005).

Full-Day Kindergarten 2006-07

There will be three full-day kindergarten programs for the 2006-2007 school year, with locations to be one at each elementary school. The fee for the optional half of the full-day kindergarten program has been set at \$4,150 for the 2006-2007 school year. This fee is competitive with other districts' fees for full-day programs.

Consolidation of Functions

Plans to consolidate maintenance services between schools, park and recreation, and the Department of Public Works are currently underway. Similar plans are in process for the human resource and financial functions.

2006-2007 School Year Calendar

The School Committee approved the 2006-2007 School Year Calendar. The calendar can be found on the Longmeadow Public Schools website.

LPS Informational Listserve

Subscribing to the LPS Listserve is a great way to stay informed. Listserve subscribers receive information about our schools directly from the superintendent's office. To subscribe, visit <http://www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us/dist/> and click on "Subscribe to LPS Informational Listserve in the left margin.

Upcoming Events

- **Annual Town Meeting April 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at LHS**
- **Town Elections Tuesday, June 6, 2006**
- **Voter Registration April 5, 2006 and May 17, 2006 from 8:15 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Town Clerks Office**
- **Regular School Committee Upcoming Meetings: 7pm Longmeadow High School Committee Room:**

Monday, March 27, 2006 Monday, April 10, 2006 Monday, April 24, 2006

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed to this issue of LINK: LINK Representatives: Sara Luckert and Maria Markenson. LINK Editors: Maryellen Baker, Mary Brown, Laurie Cirillo, and Laura Katz; LINK Advisor: Jeanne Lachiusa

The information contained in this newsletter represents information gathered by LINK. Official minutes of the School Committee and Finance Subcommittee meetings are found on the town website www.longmeadow.org or the district site <http://www.longmeadow.k12.ma.us/dist/>